

Stonington April 16th 1833

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Dear Bro Phelps-

Wife & myself arrived in this place on Saturday, little more than two weeks since we came by Steam Boat from N Haven via N York. In many respects this is a pleasant & interesting field. We find a hospitable people, & much more of refinement than we anticipated. A majority of the leading men in society would not suffer in comparison with men in N York or Boston. There is a large circle of intelligent interesting ladies here than in any place I have visited in proportion to the size of the village. The revival here, two years since, brought most of them into the church. Bro Whittlesey did a great deal of good here, & has left behind him many warm friends. He had however from the commencement of his labors, to encounter a determined opposition, which was on among other causes, which led to his dismissal. Bro W. you know does not want for independence of character & it may be that this led him to take less pains to conciliate those who made what he considered unreasonable complaints, than some others would have done. Party spirit here has run very high, & there is

no doubt but a great deal of wrong feeling has been
exercised. What the future will disclose it is impossible
to divine - at present, the waters that have been for a
long time violently troubled, are perfectly calm, but it is
not improbable that it is only a calm which precedes
a storm. There was something singular about my intro-
duction here. The majority of the Society's Committee who
sat for me, are the W's warmest opposers, & were wholly
ignorant of the fact that Bro W. was one of my regular
correspondents & most intimate friends. Had they known this
it is likely that I should have been the last person they
would have sent for. However one member of the Com who
stands well with all parties, tells me that my preaching
seems to take with the "antis" (as they are significantly
termed) wonderfully. Taylorism is, in their estimation, worse
than infidelity, but ^{they} were right up & down that I am not
a Taylorite. W's friends say nothing, but look on with consider-
able interest, hoping that things are coming out about right. Altho'
every thing as yet, goes on pleasantly & smoothly, yet I think
there is very little probability, taking every thing into consideration
that I shall make this a permanent residence. First I may
not have an opportunity. Secondly if so, the bleak easterly winds
to which this place is very much exposed, I am apprehensive
will be detrimental to Mrs B's health - it requires an iron con-
stitution to visit them. Thirdly the society at present is
so large that I cannot or will not attempt to perform

the labor necessary to be done. The town is about seven miles square, & has but one Society, altho' they have two churches from three to four miles apart. I have to travel in both these churches every Sabbath, & then preach again in the evening. As for attempting to do this for any length of time I shall not. But it came near killing himself & we have done so, had he remained a year or two longer. They are talking about a division, but as there is considerable opposition to it it is very uncertain whether it is effected at present. The Society Committee waited on me a day or two since & wished to engage for those Mts. I declined. I told them I would supply them for the present, & would be at liberty to leave when I choose. So you see I am still afloat. Should there be an opening in Boston or ~~anywhere~~ ^{anywhere} when else in your vicinity, where & you think I could be useful & happy you may consider me "in the Market" as I should not hesitate to leave him I think at any time. I certainly should not unless some change is made in Society affairs & that speedily. Supposing wife & I should take it into our heads to come & spend some months in Boston. Could you take us into your family - not as visitors but as boarders? We do not want any attention or ceremony, any more than if we lived in the most retired nook in the country - no more than you would bestow upon a natural brother & sister. What are they doing out at Newfane? I wish you would write me the particulars as far as you can gather them. Write soon & let us know all about yourself wife & boy - & I only wish to be affectionately remembered to you & yours - her health is much improved. With fraternal affection Yours &c

A. C. Baldwin

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List of Names
for the Period.

Stonington
17 Apr. 60

Paid 12 $\frac{1}{2}$

Rev. Amos A. Phelps
Boston
Mass.

Paid

1853

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A. L. Baldwin